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This is the author's version of a work that was submitted/accepted for publication in the following source:

[Mafe-Keane, Vanessa](#)

(2013)

Paired back.

[Live Performance (Dance)]

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Title of Work: *Paired Back (A Work-in-Progress)*

Duration: Approximately 8 minutes

Choreographic Direction	Vanessa Mafe-Keane
Performers	Avril Huddy & Jenny Roche
Musician/performer	Nicholas Ng
Production	David Pyle
Screen Animation	Paul Van Opdenbosch
Motion Capture Technician	Joel Bennett

Research Component:

Paired Back (2013) was an eclectic assortment of collaborative experiments between experienced performers and creative artists. It was programmed as part of *Dance Indie Dance: Independent Contemporary Dance Showcase*, which was held from the 30th April to 2nd May 2013 and supported by Ausdance Qld. This work did not seek to produce a polished performance but permitted artists the opportunity to research and test new ideas within a stage setting. These experiments investigated how text could be used as a dance score, ways to integrate a live musician to the choreography and the use of motion capture as a projection.

Text was explored as a dance score through specific words knot, untwist, distortion, winding, rewinding as spoken instructions to trigger movement sequences. The performers, Avril Huddy and Jenny Roche, responded to these five words with their own individual movement which were captured on video, reviewed and assembled as a duet. DVD documentation demonstrated how these five words/movements could be traced from the first rehearsals through to the performance at the Judith Wright Centre. It is anticipated that by interpreting text both specifically and more creatively will leave a more discernible trace in the final performance outcome.

This work explored the concept of a roaming live musician. As the musician was often seated to play his instrument, he was able to be transported through the space on a low surface attached to castors. This movement pathway was also connected to the motion capture projection of a dissolving pattern. Although this initial use of motion capture technology is relatively direct, it provides invaluable first-hand knowledge of the process involved and how to develop strategies to integrate it within future works.

Programme Notes:

Paired Back was a work-in-progress inspired by the intricate traditional threshold patterns which are drawn by women as part of their household duties across areas of India. These patterns protect the home and are placed at the doorway gradually disappearing as the day goes on. In this work the patterns act as a creative metaphor that allows the exploration of several multi-disciplinary directions. Although in its early stages within the creative process, the work has already become a testing ground for initiating new collaborations between the performers and evoking connections between the projected images and the actions on stage.

Key works:

Dance performance, multi-disciplinary, motion capture, dance score